

Message Text

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56

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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TAGS: UY ICRC

SUBJECT: ICRC PROTEST URUGUAYAN MEDIA VERSIONS OF HOSPITAL VISITS

MISSION HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE NO. 1273B OF
JULY 16 ON ABOVE SUBJECT.

QUOTE. A WORD OF EXPLANATION BY THE ICRC ON ITS RECENT VISITS
TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN URUGUAY.
GENEVA (ICRC) - SEVERAL URUGUAYAN NEWS MEDIA IN JUNE MENTIONED
THE VISITS WHICH TWO ICRC DELEGATES MADE IN APRIL TO SEVERAL
PLACES OF DETENTION IN URUGUAY. THEY ATTRIBUTED TO THE ICRC
STATEMENTS WHICH IT HAS NEVER MADE, SUCH AS "THE PRISONS IN
URUGUAY ARE MODELS."

THE ICRC WISHES IT TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ITS DELEGATES
WERE PERMITTED TO VISIT FOUR PLACES OF DETENTION AND A HOSPITAL
UNDER MILITARY CONTROL DURING THEIR MISSION IN URUGUAY. MOVEROVER,
CONTRARY TO ESTABLISHED PRACTICE, THE DELEGATES WERE NOT ALLOWED
TO INTERVIEW DETAINEES OF THEIR CHOICE WITHOUT WITNESSES. THIS
DEPARTURE FROM THE NORMAL STANDARD WAS A CONCESSION WHICH
THE ICRC MADE, WITH A VIEW TO FACILITATING THE RESUMPTION
OF ITS VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION IN URUGUAY, AFTER
THEIR INTERRUPTION IN 1974.

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IN VIEW OF THE RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF PLACES

VISITED AND THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE VISITS WERE
CARRIED OUT, THE ICRC WAS UNABLE TO MAKE AN OBJECTIVE AND
COMPLETE ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN PLACES OF DETENTION
IN URUGUARY -A FACT WHICH THE ICRC DREW TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE AUTHORITIES.

THE ICRC ADDS THAT IT NEVER ISSUES ANY COMMENT ON THE
MATERIAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OBSERVED BY ITS
DELEGATES DURING VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION.UNQUOTE.
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